



Figure 4.  
Insulation – Ice Dam Effect

A properly designed, internally drained flat or low slope roof is not affected by building insulation characteristics to the degree sloped structures are. In fact, on an uninsulated low slope roof, there is the benefit of reduced snow load through melting. Melt water will not encounter a temperature differential that leads to freezing (ice dams) and pose the problem which occurs on sloped roofs with cold eaves.

### 3.2 Roof Conditions

**S**pan length of the primary roof framing members is also important in determining whether a roof structure may be susceptible to excessive deflection or failure from snow loading. Additionally, what structure the roof is covering should be accounted for when determining susceptibility to snow.